19

user's finger or the like is touching the screen of the LCD panel 18, on which an interface 176 is displayed. The computer compares a temporal variation in the speed of the fingertip in the normal direction of the display surface a preset value. If the temporal variation in speed is larger than the 5 preset value, the computer determines that a key or button has been depressed hard. If the temporal variation in speed is smaller than the preset value, the computer determines that the user's finger or hand is touching the surface of the LCD panel at a low pressure. The present embodiment uses the two cameras, but a single camera may be used provided that the distance can be determined with the single camera on the basis of focal distance or the like. Alternatively, it is possible to use a device which can carry out pointing in a threedimensional space and which is disclosed in Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 1999-265241 as "Information Input Apparatus and Method for Information Input and Recording Medium".

In the description of the above embodiment, the first housing 2 is provided with the first LCD panel 8, and the second housing 4 is provided with the second LCD panel 18. However, given a display device 180 which is flexible and bendable, the bendable display panel 180 may be extended across the first housing 2 and second housing 4 rotatably connected together by the hinges 6A and 6B and may be attached to both housings 2 and 4 as shown in FIG. 17. With the bendable display device 180, a display area 180A in the first housing 2 may be continuously connected to a display area 180B in the second housing 4 so as to prevent the formation of an area between the areas 180A and 180B where no screen is displayed. This further improves the degree of freedom in display and the placement of the operation interface.

The present invention has been described in detail in conjunction with the embodiment of the notebook personal computer. However, the present invention is applicable to a smaller electronic apparatus such as a PDA. The present invention is also applicable to an apparatus such as a foldable cellular phone that enables e-mail or WEB browsing; for such a cellular phone, portability is inconsistent with the size of the screen, and such a cellular phone has different input forms suitable for the respective applications; making a phone call requires only numbers to be input but writing a mail requires characters to be input, and WEB browsing can mostly be achieved simply by operating the cursor.

The inventor has already developed a technique for additionally providing, on the touch panel-installed panel 18, a flexible member with concaves and convexes corresponding to the arrangement of virtual keys, as an assistance to inputs. This invention may be combined with the personal computer according to the present invention. Placing a flexible sheet with concaves and convexes on the touch panel 18 allows various input interfaces to be automatically changed. The sheet with concaves and convexes can be provided far more inexpensively than input peripheral devices even when the user requests an input interface which is substantial, that is, which has concaves and convexes and which is deformed under force.

The invention described above in detail provides an electronic apparatus that is excellent in portability, operability, visibility, and reliability.

Additional advantages and modifications will readily occur to those skilled in the art. Therefore, the invention in its broader aspects is not limited to the specific details and representative embodiments shown and described herein. Accordingly, various modifications may be made without

20

departing from the spirit or scope of the general inventive concept as defined by the appended claims and their equivalents

What is claimed is:

- 1. An electronic apparatus comprising:
- a first display device comprising a first housing and a first display screen which is held in the first housing;
- a second display device comprising a second housing and a second display screen which is held in the second housing, the second display screen comprising a sensor which generates a sensor output signal depending on an input on the second display screen;
- a connecting mechanism configured to connect the first and second housings together and be able to adjust an opening angle of the first housing and the second housing;
- a display processing section configured to display a first display image on the first display screen and a first interface image on the second display screen;
- a determining section configured to determine an instruction to the first interface image on the basis of the sensor output signal; and
- a control section configured to control the display processing section in response to the instruction to display a second display image in place of the first display image on the first display screen and display a second interface image in place of the first interface image on the second display screen,
- wherein the connecting mechanism sets the opening angle of the first housing and the second housing so that the first and second display screens can be viewed from one side of the electronic apparatus, and the second display screen is switched between display of the second interface image on the first interface image and non-display of the second interface image on the first interface image, the display of the second interface image on the first interface image being displayed on top of the first interface image as a translucent or opaque image.
- 2. The electronic apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the connecting mechanism sets the opening angle of the first housing and the second housing so that the first and second display screens can be viewed from opposite sides of the electronic apparatus, and the first and second display screens display the second display image and the second interface image corresponding to substantially the same image or the second display image and second interface image which are in a mirrored relationship.
- 3. The electronic apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first display device further comprises a light source incorporated into the first housing to illuminate the first display screen, and the first housing comprises a structure configured to guide illumination light from the light source to the second display device as backlight illumination or a front-light illumination.
- **4**. The electronic apparatus according to claim **1**, wherein the first and second display screens forms one flexible and bendable display unit.
 - 5. An electronic apparatus comprising:
 - a first display device comprising a first housing and a first display screen which is held in the first housing;
 - a second display device comprising a second housing and a second display screen which is held in the second housing, the second display screen comprising a sensor which generates a sensor output signal depending on an input on the second display screen;